



German Patent and Trademark Office

Munich, 19th November 2002

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Application No.: 101 42 093.5-24

Applicant: Yazaki Corp.

Your reference no.: Q01425DE10

Request for examination, date of payment on 13. September 2001

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The examination of the above mentioned patent application has lead to the following result.

For answering a term

of four months

is granted, starting with the delivery.

Documents which are included in the response (claims, description, description parts, drawings, etc.) are needed in two copies on separate pages. The response is needed in single copy only.

If the claims, the description or the drawings are changed during the procedure, the applicant, so far as the changes are not proposed by the Patent and Trademark Office, has to declare individually, where the described features of the invention of the new documents are disclosed in the original documents.

- (1) US 4 082 864
- (2) DE 43 03 434 C1

From citation (1) a method and a device for infiltrating a linear material with molten metal is already known, which corresponding to the subjects of claims 1 and 5 have the following features (compare column 2, line 43 to column 4, line 11 and drawing):

- The linear material designated as fibres is coated with a flux characterised as boride before the infiltration with molten metal, to improve the wettability.
- The infiltration device comprises a bath container 32 for the molten metal 34, which has an inlet sealing portion designated as a tube 28, and a flux coating device, designated as a furnace zone 14, for the linear material 26.

Therefore, the subjects of claims 1 and 5 are not novel.

The subject of claim 2 is not based on an inventive activity, as the infiltration method according to citation (1) also already comprises the method steps

- continuously feeding of the linear material through an inlet sealing portion into a bath container, which contains the molten metal,
- pulling the linear material out off the bath container and
- coating the linear material with a flux in a flux coating device, which is arranged close to the bath container with an inlet tube 28,

(compare column 2, line 43 to column 4, line 11 and drawing). However, there diverting from the subject of claim 2 it is not provided, that the inner chamber of the bath container is pressurised.

That, however, in an infiltration method for producing metal-matrix-composite materials, into which reinforcement materials are embedded, the molten metal is pressurised, is obvious, as it is known from citation (2) and is provided there for the same purpose on the relevant technical field (compare column 4, line 48 to column 5, line 10).

Therefore, claims 1, 2 and 5 are not allowable.

A State of the Art questioning the patentability of the subjects of claims 3 and 4 could not be found up to now. It is the decision of the applicant, to file a main claim limited in this way and an amended description.

A grant of a patent with the present documents is not possible.

Examination Department for Class C 22 C

Lange, extension: 4623

(signature)

enclosure: 2 copies each of two citations.